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Anthony Rizzo is a 32-year-old first baseman for the New York Yankees. He is a good baseball player with many strengths and some weaknesses. I am going to analyze his strengths and weaknesses, forecast his fWAR for each year over the next three years, and estimate what contract he should get this upcoming offseason.

Anthony Rizzo has a variety of strengths as a baseball player. Some of his strengths are he is a unique player because he is a left-handed hitter, he is a great defender, he leads all MLB first basemen this year with 7 Outs Above Average, he does not strikeout a lot as his K% in 2021 is only 14.9% which puts him in the 89th percentile in K% for all MLB players, and he is good at making contact as his Contact% was 82.1% from 2019-2021. Getting on-base is important for a hitter. Getting on-base gives teammates the opportunity to drive the runner in and forces the pitcher to pitch from the stretch. Anthony Rizzo is good at getting on-base as his BB% was 10.9% from 2019-2021, which is above average, and his OBP from 2019-2021 was .375, which is above average. Barreling up the ball is also important for a hitter to do as barreling up the ball increases the chances a hitter will get a hit. Anthony Rizzo is good at barreling up the ball as he has 28 Barrels this year, which is 59th in the MLB. Hitting with power is another important skill for a hitter to have. Anthony Rizzo is great at hitting with power as his Hard Hit% is 43.4% this year, which is top 60 in the MLB, and his max exit velocity this year is 114.2mph which is in the top 8% of the MLB. Some other strengths of Anthony Rizzo is he is good with men in scoring position as his wRC+ with Men in Scoring position is 123 over his career, he is a durable baseball player as he has not become injured a lot during his career, he hits well against fastballs as his average xwOBA from 2020-2021 against fastballs was .386, he hits lefties well as his average

wRC+ from 2015-2021 against left handed pitchers is 121, which is above the average wRC+, he hits righties well as his average wRC+ from 2018-2021 against right handed pitchers was around 125, which is above the average wRC+, he is an overall good hitter as his average wRC+ was 127 from 2019-2021, which is above average, and he is an overall good player as his fWAR from 2017-2019 was around 3.7.

Anthony Rizzo has some weaknesses as a baseball player. His weaknesses are he is slow as his sprint speed this year is 25.1 ft/s, which is in the 16th percentile for all MLB players, he is not a great baserunner as his BsR value this year is -1.4, which means his baserunning value is 1.4 points below average, he chases too many pitches as his chase% is 29.3% and his Chase Rate is in the 34th percentile in the MLB, he has not always performed great in the postseason, he only has a 74 wRC+ and a .283 wOBA in the postseason, he does not hit great against breaking pitches as his average xwOBA from 2020-2021 against breaking pitches was .324, he does not hit great against off-speed pitches as his average xwOBA from 2019-2021 against off-speed pitches was about .321, and he struggles on pitches in the strike zone that are high and in and high and away. Anthony Rizzo does have some weaknesses that he should address.

I am going to predict Anthony Rizzo's fWAR for various years using a variation of the Marcel 5-4-3 projection technique. I predict Anthony Rizzo to have a 3.1 fWAR in 2022, a 3.1 fWAR in 2023, and a 2.9 fWAR in 2024. My projected fWAR for him in 2022 (3.1) can be calculated by multiplying 2.4 (the sum of his fWAR in 2021 and 2020) by 5, then adding the product of 4.0 (his fWAR in 2019) and 4, and then adding the product of 2.9 (his fWAR in 2018) and 3. My projected fWAR for him in 2023 (3.1) can be calculated by multiplying the product of 3.1 (my projected fWAR for him in 2022) and 5, then adding the product of 2.4 (the sum of his

fWAR in 2021 and 2020) and 4, and then adding the product of 4.0 (his fWAR in 2019) and 3. My projected fWAR for him in 2024 (2.9) can be calculated by multiplying the product of 3.1 (my projected fWAR for him in 2023) and 5, then adding the product of 3.1 (my projected fWAR for him in 2022) and 4, and then adding the product of 2.4 (the sum of his fWAR in 2021 and 2020) and 3. My projected WAR values for him over the next three years are good WAR values for him to have.

I am going to estimate what contract Anthony Rizzo should get in this offseason. The cost of a win in free agency was 7.8 million dollars during the 2019 offseason and 9.3 million dollars during the 2018 offseason. The average of 9.3 and 7.8 is around 8.6. Therefore, I estimate that the cost of a win in free agency this offseason will be around 8.6 million dollars. Baseball players tend to peak in their late 20s. Therefore, Anthony Rizzo has likely peaked and is on the decline. Considering his age and my projected value of a win in free agency this offseason, I think Anthony Rizzo should get a 3-year 78.3-million-dollar contract. I calculated about 78.3 by taking the sum of his projected fWARs over the next three years and multiplying that sum by 8.6. At the end of this three-year contract, he will be 35 years old. I would only offer him three years because he will likely not be as good of a player in his late 30s.

Anthony Rizzo is a good overall baseball player with many strengths and some weaknesses. He should get a good contract during this upcoming offseason, and I think he will play well over the next three years. Hopefully, Anthony Rizzo continues to entertain baseball fans around the world.

Sources:

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